

# House Resolution 26 - Introduced

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY KELLEY

1 A Resolution in support of green schools.

2 WHEREAS, economic growth in the twenty-first century  
3 will be enhanced by establishing policies that promote  
4 the potential of our buildings and our children to  
5 achieve a healthier, safer, more efficient, resilient,  
6 and prosperous future; and

7 WHEREAS, deteriorating school infrastructure and  
8 poor indoor environmental quality threaten the health,  
9 well-being, and achievement of staff and students; and

10 WHEREAS, healthy, high-performance schools, or  
11 "green schools", create an indoor environment that is  
12 conducive to learning while saving energy, resources,  
13 and money; and

14 WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier  
15 and more productive because green schools incorporate  
16 natural day lighting, thermal comfort, and classroom  
17 design, all of which have been shown to improve  
18 children's well-being and ability to learn; and

19 WHEREAS, the benefits of superior indoor air  
20 quality have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer  
21 allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher  
22 retention rates; and

23 WHEREAS, green schools use an average of 30 to  
24 50 percent less energy compared to conventional  
25 schools; and

26 WHEREAS, programs such as the leadership in energy  
27 and environmental design green building rating system  
28 can optimize building performance, resolve operational

1 inefficiencies, and dramatically reduce utility  
2 costs in new school construction and existing school  
3 renovation; and

4 WHEREAS, green schools provide an educational  
5 experience that transcends the classroom by creating  
6 a host of opportunities for curriculum innovation and  
7 hands-on project-based learning in which the building  
8 itself becomes an interactive teaching tool; and

9 WHEREAS, green school construction and renovation  
10 projects are readily able to be completed at no  
11 higher cost than conventional school construction and  
12 renovation; and

13 WHEREAS, existing schools can become greener  
14 through low-cost or no-cost operations and maintenance  
15 improvements, such as implementing water efficiency  
16 measures, green cleaning programs, smarter purchasing  
17 practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives,  
18 and energy management plans that can save a school  
19 district millions of dollars a year in direct operating  
20 expenses; and

21 WHEREAS, the benefits of green schools transcend  
22 political boundaries; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That  
24 the House of Representatives supports the establishment  
25 of policies that promote green schools and establishes  
26 a goal of every child being provided an opportunity  
27 to attend green primary and secondary schools in this  
28 state.